

Social Service PILOT and Comparative Impact Study Committee Forum
Ablondi (moved) Public Hearing Room 7:00 PM Memorial Building
Framingham, Ma

Minutes

March 8, 2006

Note: If a word or sentence is blue and underlined click for the link.

Note: A tape recording of these minutes is available upon request

Attendance: Bob Berman, Yaakov Cohn, Dawn Harkness, Cynthia Laurora., Laurie Lee, Wes Ritchie, Nick Sanchez, Steve Orr, Jim Palmer absent; John Speranza,

Bob Berman called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM and introduced our guests to the roundtable forum:

- Eric Masi and Jeanne Ryan from Wayside,
- Sister Denise Kelley and Emily Kaden Bethany Hill,
- Paul Spooner MWCIL, has been on Irving Street for 14 years. They are an advocacy and service center for the Metrowest area. Services for kids to elders. Peer counseling support, skills training, and advocacy. Serve 1500 calls a year for referrals and information. They have 250 active individuals who are getting direct services. They go into the community: nursing homes, low income housing .. assist people and help them adapt to their disability. They are a disability organization: they serve people covered under the ADA: people in recovery, physical disabilities, mental illness, emotional illness... they represent all kinds of disabilities
- Christine Alexandro, Baypath Elder Services local homecare corporation or aging services access point. One of 27 in Commonwealth. Local area agency on aging and planning and service area covers 14 communities in Metrowest in which Framingham is the largest. They have over 300 homecare clients and a number of programs. They provide a variety of services. Population over 60. Contract out for services; not a direct service provider. Case managers set up services and have referral services and numerous [programs](#). They work with Housing Authorities to provide a social service component to housing, one in Framingham at the Memorial House which is a supportive housing site. They have few people walking into the office. They work with frail elders. 28 years, primarily in Framingham. They were at Cushing Hospital.
- Chris Gordon Advocates- full service human services organization founded in Framingham 30 years ago, primarily serving people with adult mental disabilities and psychiatric disabilities- helps them live rich full lives in the communities they choose to live. Deeply committed to the idea that people with such disabilities can live rich , full lives if they have the array of supports available. Services all over Eastern Ma. 800 supported beds in a variety of configurations: group homes to people supported in their own homes. They also have several outpatient services providing a full range of psychiatric services. Principal offices in Framingham and Marlborough; outreach in Natick, Worcester County Jail. 6,000 people in outpatient service.

They also provide emergency psychiatric services to 14 town area focused around Framingham. Advocacy and disability services. Give people a whole array of treatment and services. Diane Gould also from Advocates, they provide a range of support from case management, day habilitation.. their philosophy is “whatever it takes” Their aim is to help people be productive members of their community.

- Gerry Desilets, Director of Planning at SMOC. Lifelong resident of Framingham. He was a volunteer member of Board of SMOC for years. The region used to be south Middlesex instead of Metrowest. Established in 1964 in Framingham with first office on Concord Street. They serve as one of the anti-poverty agencies established at that time. SMOC is an umbrella agency running 45 programs: head start to meals on wheels, behavioral clinic, housing assistance , major provider of substance abuse services through residential programs via contracts from MA DPH, as well as DMH,DSS,DPH. Targeted towards responding to correct the condition of poverty which people find themselves in. They are a provider of homelessness services.
- Bill Horne, Genesis Counseling Hemenway building. Licensed outpatient substance abuse clinic. Founded Oct 2, 1995 with a staff of 3 operated in 476 SQ ft of rental space. Now they are in a space of just under 3,000 sq ft with a staff of 22. They deal with clientele from 12-88 years. Group counseling is primary method for substance abuse. They see 250-275 people a week. Sources of referral are the standard: DSS, hospitals, doctors. They refer to and receive referrals from the other agencies present. In addition, they treat dual diagnosis: mental health and substance abuse as long as they get treatment outside from another source. In addition., they run adolescent programs YoSap, an educational process and get referrals from the school. They received a special grant from MWHCF for special adolescent program. It t goes beyond substance abuse to life issues and support system. They run anger management: alternative to a batterers program. Alcohol and drug abuse may or may not impact anger management and they include that in their program.

Jim asked what would be the impact on Framingham if you all decided to pull out tomorrow?

Bill Horne from Genesis said that they provide a lot of services for people in the area. We have contracts for second offender oui. You are thus dependent on public transportation. (inaudible) When the governor’s cut the detox facilites in Brocton, Worcester, Somerville, more clients have died in the last two years. .with the detox gone clients end up in the emergency room: it is costly and uses up free care dollars. (Inaudible) He knows someone who has had 14 years sobriety..

Jerry Desilets added that the detox is sorely missing. It was a great service for the Framingham Police Dept as well.

He said that in terms of what he thinks the community might be missing in terms of social services that are not available are emergency needs. Sometimes those are difficult populations but the service needs to exist or someone will sleep in the street, or in somebody’s car or somebody’s garage. Fortunately that is a tiny proportion of what is needed in the Framingham area. What they have found works well with that population, and the general substance abuse population. Is so called continuum. THE goal is not to

put somebody in a particular care or leave a person in the system of care. The goal is to move that person through the continuum of care from detox into sober housing: committed to recovery, urine screens, get a job, get back together with your family and move on. That is the goal for substance abuse.

Mental health issues might require more support and time.

Substance abuse continuum clients might take 6 months to move through the continuum to a couple of years. Some are families, a lot of individuals. We talk about “wrap around” services. You “wrap” those fold around with this continuum of treatment and counseling and new activity. We work with them through MRT for career for job search and placement. People need a decent , safe place to live while they are going through this recovery and moving through. Substance abuse world do not see people for years and years. There are some chronic people that might be in for 10-15 years. Those are rare. Success rates are good. Depending on the program 60-70% and higher depending on situation. They move through the continuum. They need to be pushed through. They have an Individual Service Plan. They agree to the rules and move forward and work with their case manager. They need to get jobs, pay rent...They try to move people through this continuum in the greater Framingham area. He thinks there are a few hundred people. But it isn't a stagnant population. These people get sober, succeed and move on and they usually don't see them again. They also do meals on wheels for elders who are stretching their budget. Young families use head start to give the kids developmental assistance.

Mr. Spooner struggles with these subjects we are studying. He asked what would happen if someone took part of your life away. He said that SS's are part of our culture. We are a culture that cares for people who don't have the ability to take care of themselves. We have always taken care of the downtrodden. To ask what if we took it away, how would we feel if we cut off your arm. IF MWCIL , operates at \$500,000 a year. They rent and thus pay for taxes. What happens to the landlord? And his tax payment. It is hard to take some of these legitimate concerns, neighborhood issues, and say if you get rid of it, that will solve it. People still struggle and we need to be able to assist them and provide services for them. Since 1980 there has been \$35M reduction of subsidies. Framingham doesn't have much new housing. There is less and less available housing in Framingham. The Median income is \$84,000. All of these things impact all of us, not just those which need SS's. You are all an accident away from being Christopher Reeve. Then you will realize the holes in the fabric of SS's and they are trying to hold this fabric together. Framingham has in many ways opportunities fro a lot of people to be able to do that. Framingham is a City, not a small town. We have city issues and need City answers. Framingham spends less on a per capita basis than the surrounding towns for ss's.

Framingham has urban issues to deal with. He lives in Taunton and they are a city. Steve asked Mr. Spooner: one thing that raises emotional reaction is the distinction between people who have disabilities which are the results of one horse riding accident versus result of drug addiction or criminal behavior. What is your perspective?

Mr. Spooner said that a measure of a good society is how it takes care of its disadvantaged and poor difficulty managing the complexities of life. Life isn't simple and he doesn't blame the victim. He lives an independent living philosophy: he doesn't need to be fixed: his environment needs to be fixed. Everybody has the ability and right to participate and we need to find ways to support them. He gave an example of a family in

subsidized housing getting evicted because a 14 year old child was caught distributing marijuana. He said it is unfair for one mistake to evict people.

He added: if you go to jail and pay your dues, should you be penalized when you come out? You can't get housing, where do you go?

Nick asked a follow up: people who have been afflicted with alcohol addiction are involved in accidents that not only impact them, but impact other people: all your examples are things that happen that only impact them. How do you view the harm that these drugs, alcohol, is doing to other members of society.

He thinks harm is relative and society should treat people with the best supports they can and not penalize them. Yes their actions can create harm.

Cynthia said that he just made a comment that other communities provide more than Framingham: can you elaborate:

He said that he is talking about accessibility issues for homes. Natick provided assistance for a wheelchair lift for an individual. Another individual in Marlboro had issues and the city assisted and provided for the means to provide access in and out of their residence.

He is working with a landlord on Irving Street and he is working with the CDBG in housing rehab to come up with \$8,000 for a lift. He thinks Framingham is remiss because we don't have a human relations department. There is no information or referral.

Cynthia said he said he serves a disabled population, including dual diagnosis:

He said he get a few folks with dual diagnosis but he refers them to other programs. He sees, 30-40% of his clients and close to 50% of the people he sees are from Framingham, middle age suffering from multiple disabilities: diabetes, obesity, substance abuse, MS.. with a combination it is significant issues.

Cynthia said he mentioned Natick: Do they have a liaison? He said yes.

He repeated that 50% of his clients are from Framingham, which has the transportation and the most housing.

Chris Gordon spoke to Jim's question: he thought Jim was asking, what is the value to the community from SS's that might go away if the ss's evaporated:

He said that if you have ever been touched by these problems, then you would be so incredibly grateful that these services are available and you would be horrified at the thought.

He added that when we talk about SS's we talk like these are problems other people have, it isn't so. He thinks it is unfathomable to imagine what it would be like to be in a country without those services.

Advocates hires 280 people in Framingham. If another company upped and took 28 jobs with them, \$9M in wages their would be huge cry.

These services represent a tremendous moral good and an economic good for our community.

Nick asked Bethany about their academic program: what do you do?

Emily Kaden said that the people who live at Bethany Hill come through the property management. Their application is the only application that she has ever seen that in addition to usual landlord questions, CORI checks, credit checks asks people what their educational background is and goals are. It is a unique housing program: what they mean is that if a family applies, they have to be willing and able to pursue goals of their own

choosing to help develop their lives. Improve their lives. Some people do not want this type of housing.

Others, and because they started out in conjunction with SSA's in the Metrowest area and other people have come to them from the agencies, they know exactly what they are about and they want this.

Bethany usually gets people with significant sobriety. They may want to get a GED or a Masters and they know that. They want to have a safe, secure place and they want to focus on those goals. Many of them have gone through SMOC or Advocate programs or MWCIL and are ready and need a supported environment.

Sister added: Some of the educational programs, try to address the need of the person: GED prep, college, Keefe tech course. All of this comes through scholarship money. Career skills, writing, training, dress for success.. whatever it takes for the person to move out into the community and get a good job.

Programs for parenting. They do lots with their children. Their children go into the Framingham schools. They do lots with them such as after school, tutoring, music.. they provide whatever is needed.

Sister went back to Jim's question: they have 42 units: single to families. 90 residents ;40 children, 50 adults. Their folks would be homeless.

She added that they have a fabulous garden. They do a lot with the town, getting involved with the Framingham Partner Coalition.

Nick asked Jerry Desilets if he could compare the educational program at the wet shelter with this.

Jerry said it is funded by the MWHCF. They have a case manager who works with the population and does needs assessments in terms of daily living activities. What do they need in their lives to move on. It could be health counseling, substance treatment, career center, MRT (job search and placement) adult ed. – GED or more ed and training. It depends on the individual plan. They have counselors who work with people on the substance abuse and mental health side. They do group mental health counseling on site for the folks who are there. It depends on IEP.

Laurie asked what the schedule is for the case management. She thought the shelter is closed during the day.

Jerry said it is at night. Every night.

Laurie asked if it is a requirement.

Jerry said that each person has an individual plan developed when they enter the shelter. If they can find a detox bed they will send them there. There will be triage to see what the immediate needs are. When you look at their long term goals, we "wrap around" with other services.

He added that some people move through the "continuum" very quickly, others slow and difficult process for them and SMOC. But each person has to have expectations.

Mr. Masi wanted to address Jim's question.

He was struck that other than Mr. Horne, no one here started these agencies and the agencies are not new. They have been here for 30 years. IF they left there would be an economic impact. But more importantly, in a few years others would be sitting here starting up new organizations. The reason is, these organizations were not started by the

people sitting at the table They were started by a group of residents. Wayside was Pearl St House and Harbinger house. People noticed a need and said what can we do? They needed to address this issue in the community. There is the need.

Mr. Masi added that there is the question: are we bringing clients here or if we went away would all these people we serve leave? He said that the fact that they are here at all and have been here for years is testament to the fact that they are serving an important need and doing the best they can for the community. They are a ll of Framingham

Cynthia said that she has no doubt that they are filling a need but is it fair to say, to everyone here, that many of the people placed in your care are referred by the state. The agencies of the state. Because they are not available in other communities. Framingham has a tremendous continuum of care.

Mr. Masi said that the majority of the clients they serve here come from the yellow pages. A number of clients are sent to them. He also said that he gets the opposite said to him: people in smaller towns say, there is nothing near me. If their child has to go into a group home to be evaluated we are far away from them. If this were to happen to a Framingham resident , at least we are here.

In order to have a critical mass of staff and resources to serve the first Framingham client we may have to serve an Ashland client. We don't need one in every town. In order to have the critical mass, you do have to serve people from other communities. They think they are an asset to people who live in Framingham because many of us will have to use SS's of some kind in their lifetime.

Jerry Desilets said that it may depend on the agencies. Some do more in depth screening than others. For residential treatment, those families are most likely to be pre determined and screened by the state agency responsible. It doesn't mean all the families ar not from Framingham, but the decision is done by the state agency. He added that placement is done by regions. Human Services Metrowest is a 32 town area.

Diane Gould said that Advocates residential programs are funded by DMH and DMR and they make every effort to place people in communities closest to their own (inaudible)

Jim realizes that the state has not kept its part of the bargain, for example the detox. He thinks that should come back to handle the rest of the program.

Why are you in Framingham? He heard the answer at a BoS meeting: transportation, availability of housing

He want to hear from them: why are you in Framingham? He wants the citizens of this town to know.

Mr. Spooner said the two reasons:

- adequate housing, accessible affordable and available
- transportation.

It is a limited system but Framingham has the LIFT and the ride. Framingham pays into the MBTA but doesn't get anything for it. The closest MBTA are in Wellesley.

Because the ride is here, that is the biggest attraction to his organization. He can cover the 32 towns anywhere but Framingham has the most housing, services for people with disabilities, transportation.

It is the place where people can get the best range of services.

Baypath said they started in Framingham. It is the center of the area they cover: 14 towns. Plus the other agencies they work with are located in Framingham. They moved back from Southborough because of that.

Laurie asked if the LIFT is something useful and an attractive option: How utilized is it?

A number of elders use it. It is valuable for the Hollis housing. There are limits for older folks. Without it, it would be worse. Transportation is #1 for elders.

Jerry added that it is essential for lower income population.

Mr. Spooner said that it is critical. The connections from Holliston and Marlborough. It allows people to get here for services or other activities. The LIFT is the only thing around.

Mr. Horn said that Genesis was encouraged to come to Framingham. They are the only pure substance abuse service. SMOC has behavioral health, Advocates has substance abuse areas as well, but mental health is primary. He specializes in that. Steve asked who encouraged him.

Mr. Horne replied Judge Robert Campion from Framingham court.

Cynthia asked if he works with the probation department or the criminal justice system.

Genesis assists with Framingham drug court. If someone has a problem with drugs and come to the court, they can go into a 46 week program to address their problem. 80% of the people in criminal justice have substance abuse problems.

Cynthia asked about the re-entry center.

That is the parole office. They have a special program

Cynthia asked about the program for released convicts who are connected with services in Framingham as a center.

Mr. Horn said that Genesis used to have that contract but it went out to bid and Advocates picked it up.

Cynthia asked about public safety and working with people in the criminal justice system. Do you work with any people who are sent to your programs for types of convictions and what might those types of convictions be? Is there a relationship between crime in Framingham and the agencies working with the criminal justice system.

What type of convictions do people being placed in Framingham have?

Jeanne Ryan said that Wayside doesn't deal with that issue: their clients are not from the criminal justice system.

Jerry thought it was a legitimate question but didn't think any one here is prepared to answer it. If someone has been convicted of something they are monitored by the

DOC or probation. Some of them might know one or more of those people but in terms of understanding the implications to the community, those people on probation or parole are very much monitored.

Cynthia asked if there are those who are released and not monitored because they went through the re-entry center.

Jerry said they wrap their sentence.

Cynthia asked if they are sent to Framingham for counseling and services. Should we be concerned from a public safety standpoint?

Isn't this a program that started a couple of years ago and they are hoping to reduce recidivism. They aren't monitored and have served their time. Should we be concerned.

Mr. Horn said that they have served over 5,000 clients and never had a problem. Mr. Gordon from Advocates said that it is an Advocates program and he wished he had the facts but he doesn't. The re-entry program are a statewide initiative. The idea is to regionalize these re-entry centers and to offer people services from these centers. Kind of a soft landing into the community. What is happening currently is that when sentences are over there are no services in place whatsoever. Because there is a high rate of substance abuse in this population, the idea of the re-entry center is to try and hook people up with 12 step programs and other community resources, mental health services and this is a really important frontier in the criminal justice system. He would hate for us to conclude that this is going to be another, so called, magnet to Framingham because he doesn't think that is how the re-entry centers are set up.

Cynthia said there are 8: Worcester, Springfield, Fall River, Mattapan, Framingham Boston.

Should we have concern about this? We are looking at impacts. Any program working with people convicted of crime, there is a certain amount of recidivism.

Chris Gordon addressed the point of the damage done by substance abuse, and it is enormous, and is a strong argument for creating programs... inaudible

Mr. Spooner said that there is no rehabilitation in prison and no programs for re-entry: everything is stacked up against you and if there is not a system, what do they do? We have to do something to assist them and this program is one step. Part of public safety, we have to get away from the idea of just punishing people. We don't have a system that helps heal people. He is just as concerned as a homeowner in Taunton. This is an issue he can share, but as a person who works in human services, he understands we are not dealing with ways to solve the problem.

Bob said that a working group went to meet with EOHHS and one of the quotes that struck him was "the majority of SS programs that run in MA run at a deficit"

Emily Kaden said Bethany is in danger of running at a deficit. Housing costs have gone up such that someone without a section 8 voucher can't pay it. They try to keep their rents at market rate and rely on gov't support.

They have acquired 10 project based vouchers recently and want to attach them to their units. Because they also have educational programs their costs are higher and they need to actively fundraise.

Over the years Bay path holds dozens of contracts for congregate housing. Some programs run deficits and they cover those with other funds from other programs. She recalled 7 years ago a \$60,000 deficit, more than the contract. They always advocate for more funding. They don't take on deficit running programs or unfunded mandates and this affects new initiatives.

Mr. Spooner said that they have gone from 10 staff position to 8 because of costs. They have no monies to go into a deficit.

Diane said that their programs are DMH and DMR in (audible)

Cynthia asked if there are private pay clients that come in from outside of state or across the state.

Eric Masi said, Insurance yes, private pay little. They have a co-pay and insurance.

Advocates is one of the larger employers and the larger debtors. They borrow significantly from banks in order to fund operations.

Banks are not happy about organizations that run deficits.

The state keeps track of "retained revenue" and Wayside retains negative revenue, but they have to break even or show a surplus. They do this with fundraisers. They made an operational surplus of less than 1%.

Their donors didn't give them money to pay a PILOT.

Their balance sheet shows they made a surplus, but they do it from fundraisers.

Jerry said that agencies with EOHHS contracts are at best break even. The ones that make money subsidize the others.

They also hold fundraisers. The shelter downtown is funded by DTA.

Deb Blumer said that by State law, contractors of the state may not retain year over year more than 5% of their contract. If they do, that surplus applies to the following year. They are not allowed to retain money.

Dawn was struck by the comments you made that donors don't donate money so they can pay PILOT's.

She asked what % of the donors come from Framingham?

Advocates did not have that information.

Jerry said that in Framingham it is Framingham people, Marlborough, Marlborough people

Wayside said 46%

Dawn also asked, regarding the meeting with EOHHS, state contracts are awarded to agencies depending on the strength of the agencies. Fiscal soundness, good track record. Have any of your agencies had a contract rescinded for failure to meet state expectations? Everybody said No

Mr. Spooner said if you disqualified it would be hard to get more.

Dawn added that the state also said they hadn't heard any complaints from Framingham and they were surprised to meet with our committee and that there were issues and they didn't get complaints.

Are you aware of any complaints to state agencies about your agency?

Everybody said No

The committee met with a human service director, someone said there is no such person here: if there were how would that help you and the town of Framingham?

Eric Masi said that in 1979 there were 4 town employees in "coordinator office" and they were social workers and counselors and substance abuse specialists who had the mandate of serving the town. One of those folks saw the need to serve runaway and abused kids which spawned Wayside. It was a loss to the community. They were in the schools, constantly and you should ask the schools. They didn't have to worry about insurance: they were paid employees.

For Wayside to go into the schools to provide counseling: we go in and it is just like going to the dentist or the doctor: "let me see your insurance card"

Back then it was an incredible service to the schools.

The school administrators often complain that they are social service agencies.

Jerry Desilets said that discussions like this is very education. There was once a human relations person and there was communication between agencies and the town. It is difficult for the town manager, the clerk, the school superintendent or one of the Selectman, to try to respond to human service issues. If there is a relations person it makes communication and bonding a lot easier for all of us.

He realizes the tight budget but it certainly is something we and the town has missed.

The communications were helpful to both sides.

Paul Spooner added that he offers a lot of information and referral and that is missing for the residents of Framingham. A person in town hall that can tell them where to go for services.. that is what is missing. The passage of information that helps people find answers to their questions. We all provide information and referral and that is missing.

Nick asked Wayside and Bethany: Can you give a ballpark estimate of the average cost per client?

Mr. Masi said it depends on the services:

Counseling on average is about \$65-\$70 per hour

Residential is \$140 -\$240 per day

Laurie asked if education is provided in the group homes.

Jeanne said that some students go to their school. Some go to their home school. Those who don't, they provide education. If a student from Framingham needs that service, is that something the schools pay for? Mr. Masi said some, if it is sped. Otherwise it is paid by the...

Cynthia clarified. If a student in Framingham schools needs outplacement or residential services, you can provide both?

Jeanne answered that if they are a client of DSS, DSS funding covers their care, not the town of Framingham. But if they are in the Framingham school system. Other youngsters in Framingham are referred by their insurance company. It might not be a referral by DSS. It could be the family wants to use the service. They have a program in Marlborough for SPED. Framingham occasionally send a student to that school.

The number of placements Framingham sends out. The school pays that. Some other town is wondering why they have a Framingham kid. Cynthia clarified: but Framingham pays. He said yes

Nick asked Bethany the same question: Emily Kaden said that their yearly budget is \$600,000. They have 60 leaseholders over a year. \$10,000 per year per household (1 -8 people) Their funding comes from subsidies from HUD, rent from they share in a contract administered by SMOC \$40,000 for grants for educational programs

Bob opened that question to everyone.

Laurie asked Bethany about the new 10 section 8's. Emily said they are administered by SMOC.

Nick asked if they have questions for us.

Cynthia asked about sober housing. The gentleman who visited our committee, Bob Martin is a human service generalist, a conduit of information for the community, but they also provide oversight for the town in which they are working. He mentioned that sober housing is not licensed: what gets licensed and what doesn't?

Jerry Desilets said that sober housing can be a rooming house with a dozen single rooms licensed by the town. They are not licensed programs because the program element is usually operated outside of the building. The building is primarily housing. If there is counseling and treatment and other things it is usually offsite in a clinic or program. There is no health or medical component on site. It is a rooming house.

Cynthia asked if there is oversight?

SMOC hires managers who have showed at least 2 years sobriety and has gone through the continuum. They conduct house meetings weekly, There are also congregate duties for the people in the house.

Cynthia asked if they are al tax exempt.

Jerry said they pay taxes on some and not on others, depending on the level of educational and other programming that might be attached to it.

They are supported primarily by people who are there and working and pay a weekly rent. Agencies afford to run this through federal subsidies and construction grants. The dollars of the residents maintains the property.

Cynthia asked if one is taxed if people are paying more. HE said yes to cover the cost.

Paul Spooner said we weren't kind enough to describe Bob Martin. He is the epitome of what a city or town can offer both as a liaison to social services and as a person for the city or town. Whether it is supporting contracts or being the contact person. He knows just about everything in Brockton. He is am amazing man.

Cynthia said he is looking out for the town and the clients, balancing things.

Mr. Spooner agreed: he is very objective.

Jim heard continuum of care: the program gets from A-G, but you fall out at C...what is your experience with this as far as most clients go.

Jerry Desilets said there are different continuums. From a substance abuse perspective we know people fall back time to time. It is a case by case thing> While some people do well some do take a step forward and then back. Some take a long time. Some are very successful. It is up to the individual It is the individual's plan We guide them.

Diane said that it is very individual. They have different plans. It is flexible. Some time it goes well, others not as well. For example some people come in and use intensive services and then move into supported housing. Sometimes we go into a person home and change the staff support levels.

Jeanne said that the continuum of care can be considered a progression of services. As they increase their independence they move towards less services.

Jim followed up: the DOC . How do you expect people to come out without housing and not have a high recidivism rate? Will the rap program do the job?

Mr Horn said that relapse is part of the recovery process.

Bob asked if there are any programs run in conjunction with the town and agencies?

Advocates and Framingham police run JDP. The police noticed they were frequently arresting people who were mentally ill and wasting resources. The police asked Advocates to site a person in the police department and enabled them to work with the police.

Now clinicians respond with the police.

Of 38,000 employers in MW advocates is top 100.

Jeanne said that community links is Wayside's outreach program for teens. It is connected to the schools and kids who need services.

That program started because an 18 year old girl was killed. Wayside called people together to figure out what to do. Out of that came people out on the streets looking for kids who need help.

Jim asked if they could talk about the teen peer group

Mr. Masi said that DPH discontinued that. It was kids doing activities in the schools.

Cynthia asked if Community Links in other towns:

Wayside said Waltham, Milford

Nick asked about recidivism. Bill Horn gave approximately 50% for recidivism. Nick thought that is what he read too.

Mr. Horn said those are the Hazelton figures.

The first offender DUI program: BSAS went back to 1995 and looked at recidivism for first offense: 10% 1 out of 10 had second offense.

Then they asked how many people got involved in court because of other drugs. They found 20-30% recidivism.

So take 10% and then additional 20-30% from other. That is unacceptable.

That is why the curriculum is varied and 16 weeks. Not just alcohol and driving.

Bob Berman thanked the guests on behalf of the committee

Motion to adjourn

Vote 9 on favor 0 opposed 0 abstain